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The Kite Runner

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Summary:

Rahim begins to tell Amir the story of how he went to find Hassan, now grown and married, to help keep the estate up and running. They speak of old times and reminisce about their past. Rahim learns of the death of Ali, and Hassan hears the news of Baba’s death. Hassan and his new wife decide to move back to the estate. Soon, Hassan sees his mother, Sanaubar, whom he has not seen since he was a child. She stays with them for four years until she passes. In Kabul, the Taliban has taken over and banned kite fighting.

Rahim gives Amir a letter from Hassan, stating that he misses Amir and that he is very welcome back to meet with him and his family. Rahim then goes to tell Amir that Hassan had been shot in the head, along with his wife. Sohrab, Hassan’s son was sent to an orphanage. Amir also discovers that Ali was unable to have children, making the only plausible father of Hassan to be Baba. All of the pieces of the puzzle begin to make sense to Amir that Baba truly is Hassan’s father.

Amir realizes that Sohrab is actually his nephew, and he has no place staying in an orphanage. He receives help from Rahim, who makes it possible for Amir to cross into Kabul to search for Sohrab. One night on his voyage, he dreams that the person that shot Hassan was Amir, himself. He wakes and thinks about how responsible he actually was for Hassan’s death.

Analysis:

To begin, the reader realizes that Hassan has been killed, but was able to have a son before his death. Rahim explains to Amir that Ali was unable to have children, leaving Amir with the understanding that Baba is the father of Hassan. This makes Hassan and Amir more than friends, but brothers. In this, Amir is seen to be more alike to Baba than he had wished. Both Baba and Amir have now betrayed their friends, and tried to hide what they have done. Amir now must feel more pain than ever. He knows that if he hadn’t turned his best friend away, he could have been protected and not killed. Amir takes the responsibility for Hassan’s death for not protecting him. Amir now must go to find Sohrab in order to reset some of the guilt he feels. If Sohrab were to die in the orphanage, it would just be more blood on Amir’s hands.

Application:

Again, as the inherent human characteristics are examined, many can be seen in this section. Guilt in death is a theme that is so noticed in this and in all other parts of the world that it must be examined as a spanning characteristic of human nature. Amir feels the guilt lain upon his heart and mind the moment he hears of Hassan’s death. People often times also feel any amount of guilt for a death of a friend because they were not there at the time it happened. Because Amir had treated him harshly, he feels that he is solely responsible for the death of Hassan. Because guilt after death is such a popular theme, it is seen as an inherent human characteristic that spans time and culture.